Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 14399
MEPA Analyst: Aisling Eglington
Phone: 617-626-1024

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Resource Improvement, Bank Stabilization, Green River		
Street: 974 South Main Street		
Municipality: Great Barrington	Watershed: Green River/Housatonic	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude:42 10' 03.94" N Longitude:73 21' 53.95"	
Estimated commencement date:July 1, 09	Estimated completion date:Oct 1, 09	
Approximate cost:$130,000	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: GB Riverbend, Beth & Richard Larkin		
Street:974 South Main St.		
Municipality: Great Barrington	State: MA	Zip Code: 01230
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: James Toth, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: James Toth Engineering	Street: 111 Northfield Road	
Municipality: Warwick	State: MA	Zip Code: 01378
Phone: 978-544-5620	Fax:	E-mail: jtoth@crocker.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)? ☐Yes ☒No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before? ☐Yes (EOEA No._____) ☒No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? ☐Yes (EOEA No._____) ☒No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	☐Yes	☒No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	☐Yes	☒No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	☐Yes	☒No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	☐Yes	☒No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres):

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
☒Yes(Specify_MADEP, NHESP, ACOE, Great Barrington Conservation Commission_____) ☐No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Currently seeking an Order of Conditions and NHESP approval. A 401 Water Quality Certification and screening under Category 2 ACOE will be submitted shortly.

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- ☐ Land
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ ACEC
- ☐ Rare Species
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Air
- ☐ Regulations
- ☒ Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
- ☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	1.7 acres		
New acres of land altered		0.28 acres	
Acres of impervious area		0	0
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	0		
Number of housing units	0		
Maximum height (in feet)	0		
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	0		
Parking spaces	0		
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0		
GPD water withdrawal	0		
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0		
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0		

State Permits & Approvals

- ☐ Order of Conditions
- ☐ Superseding Order of Conditions
- ☐ Chapter 91 License
- ☐ 401 Water Quality Certification
- ☐ MHD or MDC Access Permit
- ☐ Water Management Act Permit
- ☐ New Source Approval
- ☐ DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit
- ☐ Other Permits (*including Legislative Approvals*) – Specify:

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

☒Yes (Specify_Estimated Habitat for wood turtle_____) ☐No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☐No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include **(a)** a description of the project site, **(b)** a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and **(c)** potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

The work site is adjacent to open fields of grasses and forbs. The opposite bank consists of a gravel bar and forested riparian buffer. The project site is an outside meander bend of the Green River.

The bank varies in height from 4 to 10 vertical feet. The slope of the bank is estimated at 1.5H to 1V ft. Portions of the bank are near vertical and some areas are being undercut by high water flows. There is limited to no vegetation along the bank. The bank is undergoing significant soil erosion. As a result, the river is increasing its lateral migration towards the automotive businesses located just east of the bank. Therefore, the landowners with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service are proposing to stabilize the bank using blocky rock and bioengineering methods described on the attached plans.

Off site alternatives will not provide adequate protection to the automotive businesses since stabilizing other sections of bank are not likely to slow the lateral migration in this reach of the Green River. An on-site alternative would be not to stabilize the bank.

To avoid completing bank stabilization work could increase the risk of weakening the structural integrity of the building near the bank. As of November 2008, the building was about 58 linear feet from the river. During a recent site visit (March 26, 09), the bank had migrated an estimated ten feet closer to the southwest corner of the building. Moreover, not stabilizing the bank will likely increase the sediment load and degrade water quality. Increased sediment loads will likely continue to degrade wildlife habitat due to the streambed becoming embedded. Therefore, not completing the proposed bank stabilization work should not be considered a practicable alternative.

Other on-site alternatives would be to utilize different construction methods. For example sheet piles placed behind the top of bank. This would be a less invasive construction method and limit work within resource areas. However, this is not a viable alternative since once the bank has eroded the sheet piles would be exposed and will likely increase flow, subsequently accelerating downstream bank erosion. Additionally, there would be negative long-term affects to wildlife habitat. The proposed construction method incorporates a stone toe and vegetation into the plan resulting in continuity of wildlife habitat along the bank.

The project will incorporate blocky rock, root wads, a tree revetment and live stakes. The blocky rock will be keyed into the left bank (a.k.a outside meander) beginning at Station 10+15 through 11+54 for an approximate distance of 139 feet. The rock will be used to stabilize the toe of slope which

parallels the thalweg along this reach of the river. The rock will be set below the existing mean annual high water elevation to stabilize the lower portions of bank. Root wads will be installed within the proposed rock bank.

The plans have incorporated ten root wads to be installed along Stations 10+50 through 11+50. The root wads will be of hardwood species or hemlock and the trunks will have a minimum 15-inch diameter. They will be placed about ten feet apart and set at a 30-degree angle to the flow of current. A portion of the root wad will be placed below the existing MAHW. The tree revetment shall be installed along the downstream portion of the work zone.

The tree revetment will begin at Station 11+50 through 13+00 for an estimated distance of 150-feet. The trees will be anchored together in a shingle method and the revetment will be anchored into the existing bank. The species for the revetment will consist of spruce, hemlock or fir. Live stakes will also be planted throughout the project area.

Live stakes will be planted throughout the project area. They will be placed along the mid and upper bank and approximately three feet away from the first observable break in slope. The live stakes will likely consist of willow and dogwood species. The plantings will occur during the dormant season.

To mitigate wildlife impacts during construction a monitor should review the site prior to each work day to insure no wildlife will be lost or harmed. If wildlife is encountered within the work zone, all work will cease until the wildlife monitor can assist movement or the wildlife has moved outside the work boundaries. To mitigate turbidity levels, installation of the stone toe should only be completed during low flow periods.